29:Dempsey M-5 (1940-1954) 1955
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628 raided in turn, his father speared to death and his brother so seriously wounded that he died shortly afterwards in Malakal hospital. The fact that one of the dead was the chief minister of the king did not deter the attackers from taking his life in retribution for the outrage they considered done to their family. In Detwok, over thirty miles away, we felt the repercussions of this awful tragedy. One of the teachers was a relative of the first aggressor, and he went in fear of his life for weeks after the unhappy event, and despite my assurances that no one would dare raid the mission, he insisted on carrying his spears around with him, even to the schoolroom and the chapel. The affair took place during the school holidays, and the boys from Lul who attended the Central or Teachers' Training Schools at Detwok did not return for some weeks after the new term had started, refusing, until the culprits on both sides had been arrested and security had been restored, to leave the safety of their villages, lest they be ambushed on the road and killed.

628 578 Sometimes a feud develops between two villages originating perhaps in some trivial incident now completely forgotten in the passage of time, but the principle is always the same: some injustice, real or imaginary, was suffered by one individual at the hands of another and such a thing can never be permitted to go unrequited. Reprisals follow from one side and the other, and a bitter rivalry springs up between the respective villages of the original antagonists, trouble breaks out periodically resulting in a little bloodletting and a few cracked skulls on both sides, police are [689] called in to restore order and to whisk the offenders off to prison, the village responsible for the breach of the peace is fined a number of cattle and both sides settle down to an uneasy truce until the next outbreak.

Such an antagonism exists between Detwok and its neighbour Pabiu. The quarrel originated over half a century ago when one village or the other—I could never discover which—destroyed or damaged or in some way desecrated the war drum of the other. The bitterness between the two villages grew with the passage of the years and there were